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NAVIGATING NETWORK RESOURCES USING METADATA

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Mechanisms for associating metadata with network resources, and for locating the network resources in a language-independent manner are disclosed. The metadata may include a natural language name of the network resource, its location, its language, its region or intended audience, and other descriptive information. The owners register the metadata in a registry (10). A copy of the metadata is stored on a server (60) associated with a group of the network resources and in a registry that is indexed at a central location (32). A crawler service (24) periodically updates the registry by polling the information on each server associated with registered metadata. To locate a selected network resource, a client (70) provides the name of the network resource to a resolver process. The resolver process provides to the client the network resource location corresponding to the network resource name. Multiple metadata mappings can be established for the same network resource.

